

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-45 (Cancelled)

46. (Currently amended) A portable media device, comprising:
a housing, and

an input device comprising a touchpad associated with the housing, the touchpad configured to receive rotational inputs and capable of a gimbal action relative to the housing, wherein the gimbal action of the touchpad is configured to enable the touchpad to float relative to the housing while being constrained thereto, thereby enabling the touchpad to move in multiple degrees of freedom relative to the housing, wherein each of the multiple degrees of freedom is associated with a function of the device and wherein the gimbal action of the touchpad enables a user of the portable media device to make a selection.

47. (Previously presented) The portable media device of claim 46, wherein the portable media device comprises a media player.

48. (Previously presented) The portable media device of claim 46, wherein the touchpad comprises a plurality of spatially distinct zones, each of the zones having a corresponding indicator for generating a distinct user input signal when the touchpad is depressed in the region of the input zone.

49. (Previously presented) The portable media device of claim 48, wherein the touchpad comprises at least four spatially distinct zones.

50. (Previously presented) The portable media device of claim 46, wherein the touchpad is based on a polar coordinate system.

51. (Previously presented) The portable media device of claim 46, wherein the touchpad is circular.

52. (Previously presented) The portable media device of claim 46, wherein the selection comprises a selection for a media file.

53. (Previously presented) The portable media device of claim 47, wherein an input surface of the touchpad is substantially co-planer with an external surface of the housing.

54. (Currently amended) A portable media device, comprising:
a housing, and
an input device associated with the housing, the input device configured to gimbal to enable the input device to float relative to the housing while being constrained thereto, thereby enabling the input device to move in multiple degrees of freedom relative to the housing and to receive a rotational input from a user, wherein the input device comprises a plurality of spatially distinct zones, each of the zones having a corresponding indicator for generating a distinct user input signal when the input device is depressed in the region of the zone, wherein each of the multiple degrees of freedom is associated with a function of the device and wherein the gimbal action of the input device enables a user of the portable media device to make a selection.

55. (Previously presented) The portable media device of claim 54, wherein the portable media device comprises a media player.

56. (Previously presented) The portable media device of claim 54, wherein the input device comprises a touchpad.

57. (Previously presented) The portable media device of claim 54, wherein the input device comprises at least four spatially distinct zones.

58. (Previously presented) The portable media device of claim 54, wherein the input device is based on a polar coordinate system.

59. (Previously presented) The portable media device of claim 54, wherein the input device is circular.

60. (Previously presented) The portable media device of claim 54, wherein an input surface of the input device is substantially co-planer with an external surface of the housing.

61. (Currently amended) A portable media device, comprising:
a housing, and
an input device comprising a touchpad within the housing, the input device configured to gimbal to enable the input device to float relative to the housing while being constrained thereto, thereby enabling the input device to move in multiple degrees of freedom relative to the housing and to receive a rotational input from a user, wherein the touchpad comprises at least a plurality of spatially distinct zones, each of the input zones having a corresponding indicator for generating a distinct user input signal when the input device is depressed in the region of the input zone, wherein each of the multiple degrees of freedom is associated with a function of the device and wherein the gimbal action of the input device enables a user of the portable media device to make a selection.

62. (Previously presented) The portable media device of claim 61, wherein the touchpad comprises at least four spatially distinct zones.

63. (Previously presented) The portable media device of claim 61, wherein the touchpad is based on a Polar coordinate system.

64. (Previously presented) The portable media device of claim 61, wherein the touchpad is circular.

65. (Previously presented) The portable media device of claim 61, wherein an input surface of the touchpad is substantially co-planer with an external surface of the housing.

66. (Currently amended) A portable media device, comprising:

a housing,

an input device comprising a touch pad configured to gimbal to enable the input device to float relative to the housing while being constrained thereto, thereby enabling the input device to move in multiple degrees of freedom relative to the housing, the touch pad enabling rotational user input comprising continuous actuation by circular motion of a finger rotated through 360 degrees of rotation, the touch pad comprising multiple independent, spatially distinct zones, each zone being moveable relative to the housing to implement a function associated with the zone, wherein each of the multiple degrees of freedom is associated with a function of the device and wherein the gimbal action of the input device enables a user of the portable media device to make a selection.

67. (Previously presented) The portable media device of claim 46, wherein the housing defines a space and wherein the touchpad and the housing are configured to enable the touchpad to float within the space of the housing.

68. (Previously presented) The portable media device of claim 54, wherein the housing defines a space and wherein the input device and the housing are configured to enable the input device to float within the space of the housing.

69. (Previously presented) The portable media device of claim 61, wherein the housing defines a space and wherein the touchpad and the housing are configured to enable the touchpad to float within the space of the housing.

70. (Previously presented) The portable media device of claim 66, wherein the housing comprises a frame, wherein the frame defines a space and wherein the touchpad and the frame are configured to enable the touchpad to float within the space of the frame.

71. (Previously presented) The portable media device of claim 46, wherein the touchpad is configured to enable one or more clicking actions.

72. (Previously presented) The portable media device of claim 54, wherein the input device is configured to enable one or more clicking actions.

73. (Previously presented) The portable media device of claim 61, wherein the touchpad is configured to enable one or more clicking actions.

74. (Previously presented) The portable media device of claim 66, wherein the touchpad is configured to enable one or more clicking actions.